

LAUDATO SI' MASS

Here are some suggestions of how you might incorporate creation themes into the Sunday liturgies during Season of Creation. If you have other ideas, please share them at hello@catholicclimatemovement.global

Procession: Incorporate symbols of creation into the procession. You can invite children to carry a globe and candles, symbolizing being children of God on Earth.

Opening Hymn: See suggestions at the conclusion of this resource.

Introduction:

We gather today as pilgrims as sisters and brothers and with all of creation. Today, as the Church honors the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, we remember Pope Francis urging in his encyclical Laudato Si' to hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor and to humbly place ourselves in communion with our common home.

Penitential Rite:

Lord, you invite us into communion with all of creation

Lord, have mercy

Christ, we are a people longing for healing and reconciliation

Christ have mercy

Lord, open our hearts so that we may hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor

Lord have mercy

Opening Prayer:

Let us pray.

"All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,

help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes."

We ask this through Christ the Lord.

Amen.

Responsorial Psalm:

Pope Francis speaks of “each creature singing the hymn of its existence” (LS 85). Select a psalm that enables the community to join the singing of earth’s creatures. Suggestions: Psalms 98, 104, 148, 150, Daniel 3: 56-88.

Homily:

See homily helps in SeasonofCreation.org for suggestions on how to incorporate creation themes into the homily.

Prayers of the faithful:

- *We pray for your creation, the whole cosmos including our common home, and the intricate balance in every part of every ecosystem that sustains life on Earth*
- *We pray for all of your creatures on Earth, as we are all affected by extreme weather events, rising tides, and the changing climate.*
- *We pray for people who risk their lives to defend creation and for all who have lost their lives in the mission of protecting Mother Earth.*
- *We pray for the Church, that she may truly model Jesus through the teachings found in *Laudato Si'* and bring about ecological conversion, changing hearts and minds to lovingly care for creation.*
- *We pray for social and ecological justice in our world so that we can right the wrongs that create poverty and degrade our common home.*
- *We pray that we will turn away from fossil fuels and choose new investment options such as renewable energy, and that we will better share the gifts of creation.*

Offertory: Include symbols of creation such as a basket of food or flowers from people’s gardens, or invite children to present animals or an animal craft that they have created during catechesis. On this occasion, it is important to be attentive to the bread and wine that are brought to the table. Perhaps a member of the community might make the bread so that it is truly “the fruit of the earth and the work of human hands.” (Hosts are most often manufactured by machines.)

Second collection:

Host a second collection for solar panels for the church or for initiatives of the parish *Laudato Si'* group/green team. Or collect donations for an environmental group such as the Global Catholic Climate Movement.

Eucharistic Prayer:

We suggest Eucharistic prayer number 3.

Prayer After Communion:

*God of all goodness,
you have fed us with these sacramental gifts.
“Bring healing to our lives,*

*that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.”
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.
Amen.*

Sending forth/Earth Day Blessing prayer:

As we go forth, walking in the light of the Cosmic Christ, we give thanks for the way we are held and nurtured by our common home of creation. Nourished by bread and wine, body and blood of Christ, may our hearts be fixed as steadfast pilgrims on a journey towards healing and reconciliation between the human and non-human natural world. May our gratitude lead us to live humbly and walk with care and respect for all that God has created.

The Opening Prayer and the Prayer After Communion are taken from the final prayers of *Laudato Si'*. If these prayers are not used, you might also consider ending mass praying one of the final prayers from *Laudato Si'*, such as “A Prayer for our Earth,” before the Sending Forth. In this case, the whole community might pray the prayer together.

*All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.*

*Touch the hearts of those
who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.*

Other ideas:

Liturgical dance: Consider incorporating liturgical dance that acknowledges the land, oceans, rivers, sky, plants, animals, and the elements. The dance could be performed during offertory or after communion.

Suggested hymns:

Here are some creation centered themes suggested by the USCCB:

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prayers-to-care-for-creation.cfm>)

*All Creatures of Our God and King
All Things Bright and Beautiful
Canticle of Creation
Come Rejoice Before Your Maker
Earth and All Stars
For the Beauty of the Earth
For the Fruits of This Creation
For the Healing of the Nations
God We Praise You
God Whose Firm Is All Creation
God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens
Great God Our Source and Lord of Space
His Voice Is the Thunder and the Storm
How Marvelous God's Greatness Joyful,
Joyful We Adore Thee
Let All the Earth Their Voices Raise
Let All Things Now Living
Let the Heavens Be Glad
Let the Whole Creation Cry
Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works
Morning Has Broken*

*O God Beyond All Praising
Over the Chaos of the Empty Waters
Praise the Lord; Ye Heaven
Sacred Creation
Sing to the Lord of Harvest
Sing Out, Earth and Skies
The Works of the Lord Are Created in Wisdom
This is my Father's World
Touch the Earth Lightly
We Plow the Fields and Scatter*



SEASON OF CREATION

*The following are a selection of **Prayers of the Faithful** that can be used during mass or other religious service for the Season of Creation Month. Please feel free to adapt.*

Loving God, creator of the Universe, you know every creature and its needs. With great trust we offer our petitions in the name of all creation.

Our response is “Creator God, hear our prayer:”

- That people of all faiths use the Season of Creation as a time to remember, respect, pray and act for the good of all of creation, let us pray.

Adapted from the [Franciscans for Ecology](#):

- That the Churches and ecclesial communities may respond to the signs of the times expressed in the cry of nature, wounded by humankind’s inability to recognize its vocation to be the custodian of all that exists, let us pray.
- That international organizations may speak out strongly against the exploitation of the resources so generously offered by Mother Earth, and for those many brothers and sisters who live in need due to waste and abuse on the part of individuals and nations, let us pray.
- That those involved in political life, and every citizen as well, may grow in the awareness that any behavior that does not respect the environment damages human coexistence and undermines the foundations of peace, let us pray.
- That those who believe in God may promote in their own religious traditions a spirituality and practice that is consistent with a recognition of the goodness of creation, thus contributing to the growth of a world of love, justice and peace where all living things praise the Creator, let us pray.
- That young people may be inspired by the example of Saint Francis to make mature lifestyle choices that are selfless and sustainable, promote the care and safeguarding of ecosystems, guarantee access to all basic resources, and encourage practices that respect the fundamental rights of the human person and of every creature, let us pray.
- That we who participate in this Eucharist, offering God the gifts that earth has given and human hands have made, may be ready and willing to respond to God’s word that calls us to be prophets of a creation made new in the Passover of Jesus, let us pray.

Adapted from the [USCCB Ecological Liturgy Resource](#):

- That we may receive the grace to respect and care for God’s creation, let us pray.
- That all creatures may be blessed as a sign of God’s wondrous love, let us pray.
- That we may work to end the suffering of those in poverty and bring healing to all of God’s creation, let us pray.

- That we may use our technological inventiveness to undo the damage we have done to God's creation and to sustain God's gift of nature, let us pray.

Developed by the [Global Catholic Climate Movement Team](#):

- In the midst of our ecological crisis, we pray that people may learn to respect creation and care for it as a gift of God. Let us pray.
- In view of the threatening climate crisis, we pray that people may learn to respect creation and care for it as a gift of God. Let us pray.
- For the poor, who are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, that they may be taken into account by those societies contributing the most to climate change. Let us pray.
- Believing in God's saving power and that God can make straight crooked paths we pray for action to protect and care for all creation and set our economies on new more life-giving paths. Let us pray.
- United by our Catholic faith and respect for all life, including the life of unborn generations, we pray that the human family takes action to transition to clean energy and keep climate change in check. Let us pray.
- With a shared sense of responsibility to care for God's beautiful, life-giving creation, we pray that the goals of energy transition, reduced global warming, and protection of life for all are attained. Let us pray.